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PRIVATE FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY DRAFT FINAL

January 26, 2023 • 1:00 PM—2:30 PM

Zoom Call

Advisory Committee Members	Position	Affiliation	Present
Darin F. Campbell, Chair	Taxi Company	Radio Cab	Yes
Abubakar Ahmed	Taxi Driver	Flat Cab	No
Nickole Cheron	City of Portland, ADA Title II and Disability Equity Manager	Office of Equity and Human Rights	No
Dan Mark, Vice Chair	LPT Driver	Mark Car Service LLC	Yes
Jen Armbruster	Representative of People with Disabilities	Member-at-Large	Yes
Jemal Abdi	NEMT Company	JB Medical Transport, LLC	Yes
Ed Kelly	Shuttle Company	ecoShuttle	Yes
David Duncan	Tour Bus Company	Grey Line of Portland	No
Eileen Collins	TriMet	TriMet— Accessible Transportation	Yes
April Murchinson	Ground Transportation Contracts Administrator	Port of Portland	Yes
Guy Auker	TNC Driver	Lyft	No
Allison Ford	TNC Company	Uber	Yes
Dan Lenzen	Riding Public	Business Owner	Yes
Mark Williams	PBOT (non-voting member)	Regulatory Division Manager	No
Gabby Sanchez	PBOT	Regulatory Division, Office Support Specialist II	Yes
Dave Benson	PBOT	Group Director, Parking and Regulatory Services	No
Matthew Erickson	PBOT	PFHT Program Manager	Yes
Camerina Galván	Notetaker	Galván Consulting LLC	Yes
Tracy M. Smith	Facilitator	Inhance LLC	Yes

Advisory Committee Members	Position	Affiliation	Present
Vacant	At-Large Community Member, Disability		N/A
Vacant	NEMT Driver		N/A
Vacant	Limousine or Party Bus		N/A
Vacant	Shuttle Driver		N/A
Vacant	Tourism Industry		N/A
Vacant	Pedicab Company		N/A

Other Attendees: Steve Hext; Amy Ruiz, Strategies 360; Carrie McKowen, Ground Transportation Contracts Administrator; Ebony Webb, Nick Johnson, Michelle Plambeck.

OPENING: DARIN CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- Darin Campbell called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.
- A quorum was met.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- **Committee Member Recruitment:** There are open committee positions. Committee members can share the [announcement](#) with colleagues to help with recruitment.

APPROVAL OF 11/28/2022 MEETING SUMMARY: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- Approved: Final draft November 28, 2022, Meeting Summary.
- All action Items were completed except Action Item 10.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Camerina Galvan will remind Guy Aufer to complete Action Item 10.

PBOT UPDATES: MARK WILLIAMS, PBOT

- **Driver Training:** There are delays with the system configuration. Progress is slow.
- **Committee Training:** Committee members are required to complete the training. Contact Mark Williams if you have not received a link or are having accessibility issues.
- **Enforcement Report:** There have been nine citations and three suspensions for primarily unpermitted drivers, none accessing the airport. This is a reminder to ensure drivers have their physical permits with them and that date stickers for all non-taxis are put on the vehicles. Drivers can call the Enforcement office for replacement stickers. Enforcement is preparing for an uptick in the spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- No public comment.

FEES AND FARES SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- The Subcommittee is working on a comprehensive survey. There is no ETA for when the first draft will be completed. The Subcommittee will not meet until the first draft is ready for review.
- The Regulatory Division sent surveys to the industry, mostly related to customer service. The business system analyst will use the responses to develop solutions and improvements.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Mark Williams will bring the Regulatory Division's survey results to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: TOPIC SUBMISSION: TNC INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE: DAN MARK, COMMITTEE MEMBER

- The insurance deductible for Uber and Lyft drives is \$2,500, and an accident may be a financial hardship for a TNC driver. Private-for-hire drivers can choose their deductible depending on the premiums. Dan Mark said the cap for all insurance deductibles across the industry could be \$1,000.
- Insurance policies have increased significantly since 2014 as Private-for-hire and EMT companies see a reduction in the number of insurance companies operating in the area.
- No public comment.
- Motion made by Dan Mark to move the action item to a recommendation. Jemal Abdi seconded it.
 - Approved: Motion passes. Allison Ford abstained. The remaining members voted in favor.

TOPIC SUBMISSION: DRIVING FOR MULTIPLE COMPANIES/PLATFORMS: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- A subcommittee has been established to address driving for multiple companies and platforms. April Murchinson and Eileen Collins volunteered to join the Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: TOPIC SUBMISSION: DRIVERS TO GET PAID 75% OF THE FARE: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- The topic submission emerged from the Fees and Fares Subcommittee. Dan Mark shared that when Uber and Lyft came to the city, the driver received 80%, and the TNC received 20%. Currently, the compensation is a 50/50 split. When Dan Mark takes an Uber ride, he tells the driver how much he paid and asks the driver how much they are getting. He understands that TNCs take a larger percentage from the surge pricing. He emphasized that most TNC drivers are old cab drivers, and English is not their first language, and he feels TNCs are taking advantage of people.
- There are three TNC drivers on the Fees and Fares Subcommittee. One TNC driver on the Subcommittee shared his end-of-year report, showing that the fares are being split at approximately 50/50. Individual trip data shared shows the same findings.
- Mark Williams added the city previously regulated fares for taxis and Sedans. PBOT has discussed the issue with the city attorney. There are questions about the legality of the city regulating the compensation for independent contractors.
- No public comment.
- Motion to move the action item to a recommendation.
 - Approved: Motion passed. Allison Ford opposed it. The remaining members voted in favor.

ACTION ITEM: TOPIC SUBMISSION: MAXIMUM SEATING REQUIREMENT: MARK WILLIAMS, PBOT, AND DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- The TNC drivers on the Fees and Fares Subcommittee brought forward the topic submission.
- Lyft submitted a written response to this action item a few hours before the meeting.
- PBOT's position is that opting out of a front-seat passenger should be an option across the industry. PBOT has received a few complaints of assaults from a passenger in the front seat. The problem is unclear.
- Eileen Collins and Dan Mark are opposed.
- Jemal Abdi has passengers that prefer to sit in the front seat for medical reasons. He favors drivers having the option to opt in or opt out of a front-seat passenger.
- PBOT has heard that many passengers with mobility issues, who don't use a mobility device, have difficulties sitting in the backseat. Mark Williams' concern is that if an error occurs with the app or dispatcher, the passenger will have to wait for another vehicle.
- The TNC driver representative on the PFHTAC committee voted against this measure.
- In the taxi industry, assaults have almost always occurred from the back seat, and passengers with mobility issues prefer the front seat.
- No public comments.
- Motion to move the action item to a recommendation.
 - Opposed: Motion fails. Unanimously opposed.

ACTION ITEM: TOPIC SUBMISSION: ACCESSIBILITY FUNDING: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- Darin Campbell is requesting City Council use \$250,000 from the general fund for a taxi industry pilot project that entails the city making the difference between a Sedan and a WAV for taxi owners who need a new vehicle.
- Mark Williams feels that increasing the taxi industry's capacity will benefit everyone who needs wheelchair-accessible transportation. Eileen Collins is also in favor.
- As it stands, the proposal only covers the overage cost. Further details have not been discussed. Taxi drivers are responsible for paying the maintenance on their vehicles. Drivers will likely report the number of rides monthly or weekly.
- PBOT is currently evaluating the subsidy set at \$15/ride. The program is for all on-demand drivers but doesn't apply to any EMT service providers.
- The difference between what will be received in the subsidy and the vehicle procurement is between \$18,000 - \$45,000 conservatively. Darin Campbell will prepare a financial report when the recommendation goes before the city council.
- Jemal Abdi shared that oversized WAV are in high demand and unavailable because they operate at a loss.
- Motion to move the action item to a recommendation.
 - Approved: Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: TOPIC SUBMISSION: TAXI CAMERA SYSTEM (JANUS G2 MODEL): MARK WILLIAMS, PBOT, AND PETER PARK, JANUS CAM

- Mark Williams recommends the committee denies adding the Janus Cam G2 model to the approved list.
- Mark Williams recommends [adding verbiage to TRN-14.35 Digital Records Requirements](#) to clarify that the memory card must be stored away from the camera in a location not visible to a passenger.
- No public comments.
- Motion made by Ed Kelly to approve the new language in [TRN-14.35 Digital Records Requirements](#). April Murchinson seconded it.
 - Approved: Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: TOPIC SUBMISSION: EYECAM MD1000: DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- Oren Maron requests the EYECAM MD1000 be added to the list of approved cameras. PBOT's analysis has not been completed.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Mark Williams will bring the analysis results to the next committee meeting.
- The topic submission will be discussed at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION: TOPIC SUBMISSION: VEHICLE AGE LIMIT: MARK WILLIAMS, PBOT

- The recommendation would incorporate additional language in the existing admin rule or to develop new language to extend the age limit of taxis and TNCs vehicles to 15 years. The extension will only be offered to existing fleet vehicles with an established service and maintenance record.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Mark Williams will bring the proposed language to the next committee meeting to extend vehicle age limits by five years.
- Darin Campbell asks the city to conduct yearly inspections to ensure the vehicles maintain their muster.
- Eileen Collins sees an opportunity to combine expanding accessible fleets and rehabbing existing fleets.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Darin Campbell and Eileen Collins will discuss offline combining expanding accessible fleets and rehabbing existing fleets, potentially submitting a topic submission.
- Motion made by Eileen Collins to move the topic submission to an action item. Jemal Abdi seconded it.
 - Approved: Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: TOPIC SUBMISSION: VEHICLE OPERATING ILLEGALLY IN PORTLAND (UNREGULATED): DARIN F. CAMPBELL, CHAIR

- This topic submission would allow the city to tow vehicles that are not regulated or permitted. Mark Williams is in support. Jemal Abdi has witnessed EMT vehicles operating without licenses and permits.
- Motion made by Dan Mark to move the topic submission to an action item. April Murchinson seconded it.
 - Approved: Motion passed. Ed Kelly abstained.

DISCUSSION: TOPIC SUBMISSION: REQUIRED PBOT TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND CHECKS (DMV AND CRIMINAL): MARK WILLIAMS, PBOT

- Information is not being input into the self-certification model (SCM) promptly, which leads to the creation of two dates in the system. The permit expires a year from when the criminal background check was conducted, but the physical permit states it is valid for two months. Drivers are being cited.
- PBOT proposes to move away from the SCM. The benefits include drivers can work for multiple companies without multiple background checks being run by each company, temporary permits would be eliminated, and PBOT will continue to run motor vehicles and criminal background checks at no cost.
- Jamel Abdi feels the city's background check is a bottleneck. PBOT conducts a national wide social security number and records search in multiple databases everywhere the driver has lived, which can lead to delays and higher costs. Some companies use an accredited background check company but request a nationwide check. Most background checks are returned to PBOT in 3-4 days.
- Motion made by Eileen Collins to move the topic submission to an action item. Dan Mark seconded it.
 - Approved: Motion passed unanimously.

CHAIR ADJOURNED THE BUSINESS MEETING AT 2:31 pm.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 1:00 pm—2:30 pm.

Submitted by Camerina Galván, Notetaker, Galván Consulting LLC.